

Chairman's Report to SACC Meeting – 15th November 2016

The 2016 season is almost at an end and once again it is time to look back on what has been achieved over the year. Without trying to name everyone (or indeed anyone), let me just say congratulations to all the championship winners across Scotland and especially to Scottish winners nationally.

2016 was never going to be an easy year. Our sport faced challenges on several fronts. The ongoing financial difficulties brought on by the economic situation, especially in the North East of Scotland. For stage rallying in particular, the fall-out from the Motor Sport Events Safety Review would again bring more change. But as far as I can tell, everyone has risen to these challenges to deliver another great year.

I want to give a big call out to all the SACC clubs that have organised events in 2016. Not just the big championship events but also the local club outings that happen in a field, on a hillside, round a carpark or at a track somewhere in Scotland every week. I know because my diary for 2016 shows that I will have attended 37 motorsport events, some of which were over several days.

We speak often about the need to recruit, retain and reward marshals for events and while this remains a key priority for us all, it is important that we don't keep shouting about this and ignore the rest of the team involved.

I know how much work is involved in putting on these events. The degree of dedication from the people involved is hard to comprehend. I know this because I see the same people everywhere I look. In particular, I appreciate just how many hours of effort go in before, during and after any motorsport competition. For the SACC chairman, at the overall sport governance level, this ran to attending at least 22 meetings in 2016.

Coming back to marshals, the effort on training in 2016 must be mentioned again. The programme of events has covered most disciplines and also spread around the country. There will be more of this to come next year.

I still feel like the 'new boy' in the SACC set up. If there is anything you want me to do more of, do less of or just do differently then please let me know.

In the meantime, I trust you will all enjoy and behave yourselves at any year end awards events and have an enjoyable winter break.

Peter Weall